

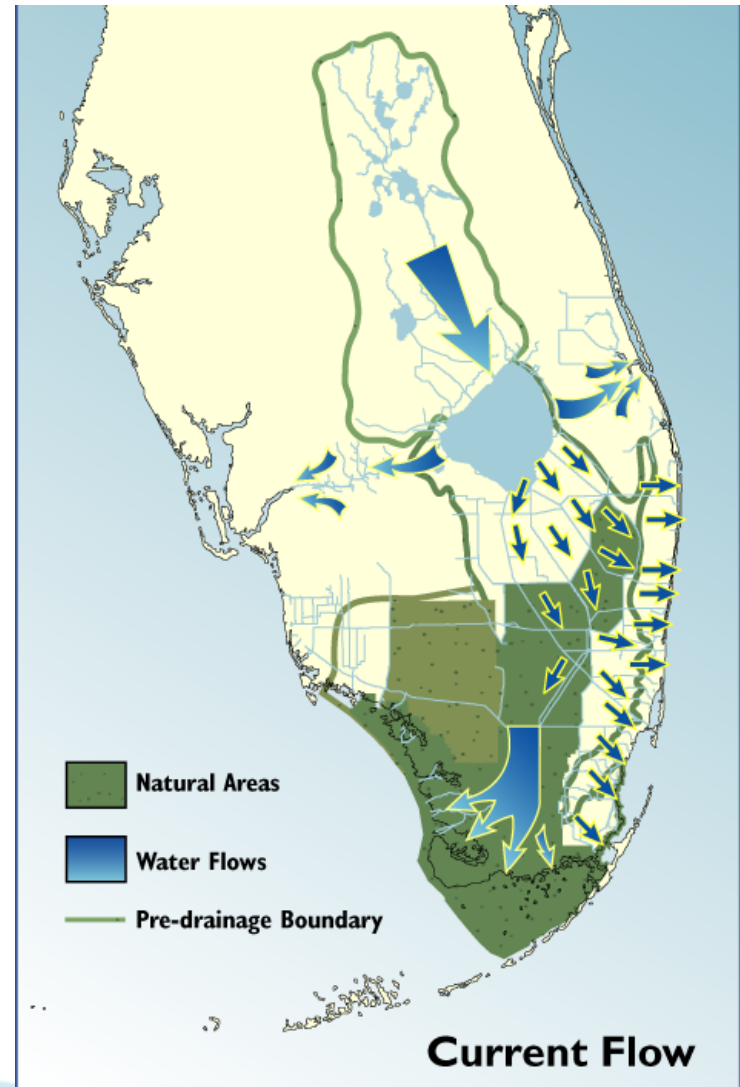
Use of Grant Programs for Water Resource Improvements on South Florida Water Management District Lands

*Project and Lands Committee
September 8, 2011*

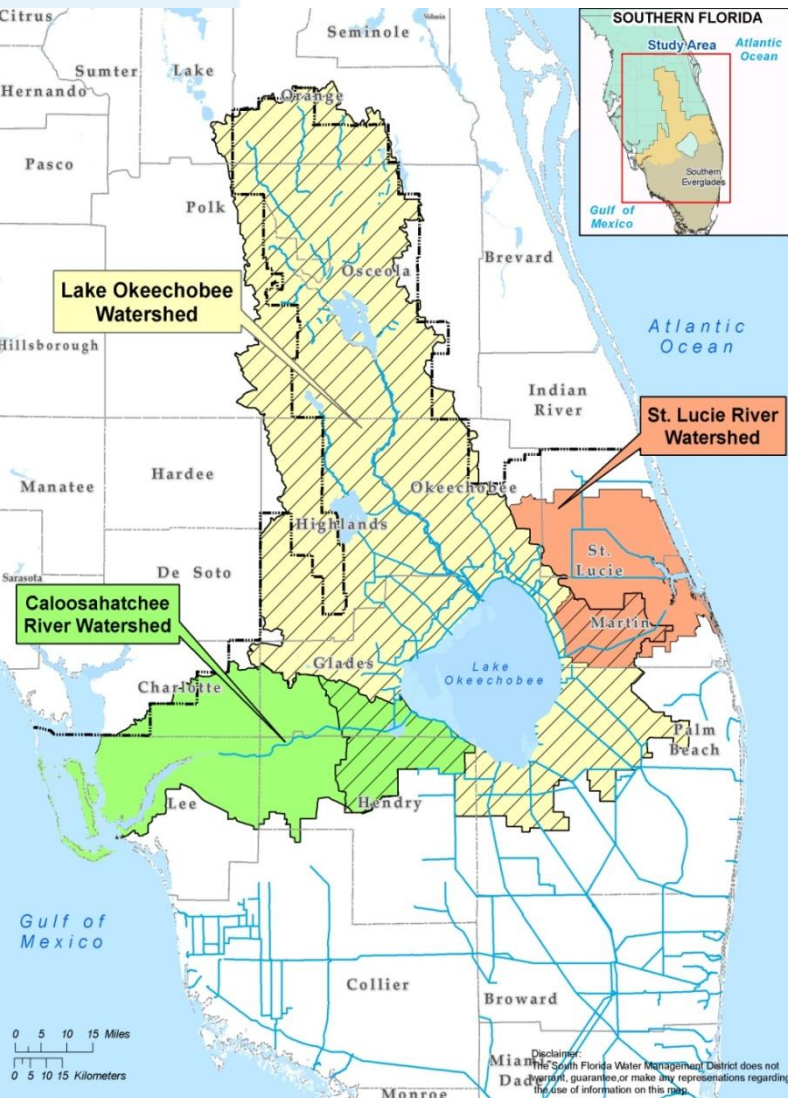
*Ruth Clements
Benita Whalen*

sfwmd.gov

Challenge: Very Effective Drainage



Northern Everglades and Estuaries Protection Program Legislation (2007)



- Lake Okeechobee and River Watershed Protection Plans
- Storage and Treatment Targets
 - Lake Okeechobee - 900,000 to 1,300,000 ac-ft
 - Caloosahatchee - 400,000 ac-ft
 - St. Lucie - 200,000 ac-ft
 - Lake Okeechobee TP TMDL=140 MT
- Combination of:
 - Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - Dispersed Water Management
 - Sub-regional/regional storage

Water Storage Categories

- Accounting
 - Completed projects all areas ~131,367 ac-ft (includes ~71,741 ac-ft regional)
 - Assessed / Planned projects all areas ~ 231,034 ac-ft



Northern Everglades Agricultural BMP Program

- Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services cooperative and incentive-based BMP program for agriculture
- District water quality monitoring program is required if landowner elects not to implement BMPs
- Legislative intent is to implement BMPs across all properties including public lands
- Cow/Calf Assessments (BMP identification) being conducted by FDACS and SFWMD staff on District lands

Water Quality Improvement On-site

Typical Best Management Practices (BMPs) Cost-effective, on-site measures:

- Nutrient Management (e.g. soil and tissue testing)
- Water Control Structures (water quality, quantity, particulates)
- Alternative Water Supply (pumps, troughs, incentive to keep animals out of waterways)
- Prescribed Grazing
- Exotic Plant Control

Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Programs

- Two Primary Funding Sources for Implementation
 - USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) Funding
 - Provides approximately 50 – 75% cost share (average standard) to private landowners or lessees
 - Lessee needs to provide proof of control of the land for the contract term
 - FDACS provides cost share in addition to EQIP – providing an additional 12.5 - 25%

Agricultural BMP Cost-Share Programs

- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Northern Everglades EQIP Funding to date:

\$31 Million

- FDACS Northern Everglades cost share to date:

\$29 Million

Policy Issue For Discussion

Should Federal Grant Funds be utilized to implement Water Resource Improvements on District Interim Lands

WRAC Discussion prior to Policy Consideration by Project and Lands Committee

Potential Grant Recipients

Lessees

Reservation Holders

Participation Pros and Cons

PROS:

Maximize Interim Environmental Use of SFWMD Land
Promotes Habitat, Hydrologic Restoration &
Recharge as well as Water Quality Improvements
and Water Retention

Maximize Water Resource Improvements at minimized SFWMD cost
Potential Nutrient Load Reduction
Potential Water Retention
Potential Federal resources versus SFWMD Dollars or Staff
Time Expended

Longer Lease Term promotes better Property Management

Participation Pros and Cons

CONS:

Use of Grant Funds on Public vs. Private Lands

Allowable under Federal EQIP Program

Potential Renegotiation of Lease Terms

Lessee Request for Credit

Participation Parameters

Minimize Risk through Proposed Participation Parameters

- Full Compliance with State/Federal Rules/Regulations
- Grant Obligations shall not encumber lands
- Lessee is obligated to contract terms not SFWMD
- No “guaranteed” lease term
- Advance Approval required for participation
- Advance Approval required for proposed project components

?? QUESTIONS ??